

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic mail client distribution system, comprising:

~~means an electronic mail client~~ for transmitting an electronic mail via a mail server; ~~and,~~
the electronic mail client comprising:

means for storing information representing a plurality of mail servers and a priority order of the respective mail servers;

selection means for selecting a mail server for transmitting an electronic mail in accordance with the priority order stored in the means for storing;

determining means for determining a type of failure that has occurred when the transmission of the electronic mail via the selected mail server fails, and for determining, in accordance with the type of failure determined, whether to select a mail server of next in priority order, to establish a connection again with the mail server that was selected at the time of the failure in the transmission of the electronic mail, or to cancel the transmission; and

a bypass permission table which stores data indicating whether or not it is possible for the ~~means for transmitting~~ electronic mail client to bypass the selected mail server and transmit the electronic mail using another mail server.

wherein, when the determining means determines in accordance with the type of failure that has occurred that a mail server of next in priority is to be selected and the bypass permission table indicates that bypass is possible, the selection means select selects the mail

server of next in priority order for transmitting the electronic mail, ~~wherein the bypass permission table can be formed and rewritten, and~~

when the determining means determines in accordance with the type of failure that has occurred that a mail server of next in priority order is to be selected and the bypass permission table indicates that bypass is not possible, a connection with the mail server ranked first in priority order is established again and the electronic mail is retransmitted via the mail server ranked first in priority order.

2. – 3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The electronic mail ~~client~~ distribution system according to claim 1, wherein when the determining means determines that the type of failure is a failure in a connection with the selected mail server, a mail server of the next in priority order is selected.

5. (Currently Amended) The electronic mail ~~client~~ distribution system according to claim 4, wherein when the determining means determines the failure in the connection with the selected mail server, the mail server of the next in priority order is selected immediately without waiting for an elapse of waiting time.

6. (Currently Amended) The electronic mail ~~client~~ distribution system according to claim 1, wherein when a connection with the selected mail server is established but the determining

means determines that the type of failure is a temporary error generated during a communication, the connection is established again with the mail server that was selected at the time of the failure in the transmission of the electronic mail.

7. (Currently Amended) The electronic mail ~~client~~ distribution system according to claim 1, wherein when the determining means determines that the type of failure is a failure in transmission of the electronic mail due to incorrect destination, the transmission is cancelled.

8. (Currently Amended) The electronic mail ~~client~~ distribution system according to claim 7, wherein when the determining means determines the failure in transmission of the electronic mail due to the incorrect destination, a message indicating such a fact is output, and the transmission is cancelled.

9. (Currently Amended) The electronic mail ~~client~~ distribution system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of ~~means for transmitting~~ electronic mail clients;

a plurality of destinations of the electronic mail; and

means for storing whether or not to select a mail server of next in priority order for each ~~means for transmitting~~ of the plurality of electronic mail clients or for each destination of the electronic mail.

10. (Currently Amended) The electronic mail ~~client~~ distribution system according to claim 9, wherein the bypass permission table stores data indicating whether or not it is possible to bypass a selected mail server and select a mail server of next in priority order for each ~~means for transmitting~~ electronic mail client or each destination of the electronic mail.

11. (Currently Amended) The electronic mail ~~client~~ distribution system according to claim 1, wherein there is a limit on whether or not to select a mail server of next in priority order according to a level of authority of the ~~means for transmitting~~ electronic mail client.

12. (Currently Amended) The electronic mail ~~client~~ distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the ~~means for transmitting~~ electronic mail client can determine whether or not to select the mail server of next in priority order for each transmission of an electronic mail.

13. (Currently Amended) The electronic mail ~~client~~ distribution system according to claim 1, further comprising a mail server list which stores the plurality of mail servers and the priority order of the plurality of mail servers, wherein the mail server list is rewritable.

14. (Currently Amended) The electronic mail ~~client~~ distribution system according to claim 1, further comprising:

means for forming a transmission log;

wherein “transmission date and time”, “destination”, “mail server that was used”, and “transmission result” are written in the transmission log.

15. (Currently Amended) The electronic mail ~~client~~ distribution system according to claim 14, wherein the transmission log is formed for each Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) connection.

16. (Currently Amended) The electronic mail ~~client~~ distribution system according to claim 14, wherein the transmission log is formed for each Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) transmission.

17. – 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A recording medium storing a program for controlling an electronic mail client which transmits an electronic mail via a mail server, the program controlling the electronic mail client to perform a method, comprising:

storing information representing a plurality of mail servers and a priority order of the respective mail servers;

selecting a mail server for transmitting an electronic mail in accordance with the stored priority order;

determining a type of failure that has occurred when transmission of the electronic mail via the selected mail server fails;

determining, in accordance with the type of failure determined, whether to select a mail server of next in priority order, to establish a connection again with the mail server that was selected at the time of failure in the transmission of the electronic mail or to cancel the transmission; and

determining, based on a rewritable bypass permission table, whether or not it is possible to bypass the selected mail server for transmitting the electronic mail and to select transmit the electronic mail using another mail server,

wherein, when the determining, in accordance with the type of failure determined, determines to select a mail server of next in priority order, and the determining, based on the rewritable bypass transmission table, determines that it is possible to bypass the selected mail server, the selecting selects the mail server of next in priority order for transmitting the electronic mail, and

when the determining, in accordance with the type of failure determined, determines to select a mail server of next in priority order, and the determining, based on the rewritable bypass permission table, determines that it is not possible to bypass the selected mail server, a connection with the mail server ranked first in priority order is established again and the electronic mail is retransmitted via the mail server ranked first in priority order.

20. (Cancelled)